



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
CHARLES J. KROGMEIER, DIRECTOR

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 957

DATE: October 20, 2010

TO: Iowa Medicaid Nursing Facilities

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: Nursing Facilities and Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT)

Earlier this year, the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME) contracted with TMS Management Group to help satisfy non-emergency medical transportation needs for Medicaid members. Beginning October 1, 2010, the TMS transportation broker has been responsible for the non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) program, including reimbursement.

The one exception is regarding residents of nursing facilities. Per Iowa Administrative Code 441—81.10(5), *b*. The facility shall arrange for nonemergency transportation for members to receive necessary medical services outside the facility.

(1) If a family member, friend, or volunteer is not available to provide the transportation at no charge, the facility shall arrange and pay for the medically necessary transportation within 30 miles of the facility (one way).

(2) For medically necessary transportation beyond 30 miles from the facility (one way), when no family member, friend, or volunteer is available to provide the transportation at no charge, the facility shall arrange for transportation through the broker designated by the department, with the cost to be paid by the broker pursuant to rule 441—78.13(249A).

For trips beyond 30 miles, nursing facilities should contact TMS at least 72 hours before the appointment to schedule a trip reservation; to do so call TMS at 1-866-572-7662. Details are also available at <http://www.tmsmanagementgroup.com/iowa/>.

Nursing Facilities (IAC 441—78.13(6))

Many nursing facilities in Iowa own a van or car that they transport residents to medical appointments in. The costs of the vehicle are normally included in the facility's cost report. By including the costs in their cost reports, the facility's Medicaid reimbursement rate is calculated to include payment for transportation expenses associated with the facility-owned vehicle. When claiming costs of a facility-owned vehicle on their cost reports, nursing facilities should not make transportation arrangements with or seek reimbursement for transportation from the Transportation Broker.

If a nursing facility does not own a vehicle, the facility is responsible for providing transportation to medical appointments within 30 miles of the facility (one way). Anything beyond 30 miles is the responsibility of the Transportation Broker.

If you have any questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909 or locally (in Des Moines) at 256-4609, or e-mail at imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us.